

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 SCA-01
SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
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UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10125

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, BE
SUBJECT: INDOCHINESE REFUGEES: APPROACHES TO COUNTRIES
OF TRADITIONAL IMMIGRATION

REF: STATE 190638

1. WE PRESENTED INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTEL TO FOREIGN
MINISTRY REFUGEE AFFAIRS OFFICER AUGUST 17. HE EXPRESSED
APPRECIATION FOR US INFORMATION AND FURNISHED US WITH
FOLLOWING DETAILS CONCERNING BELGIAN EFFORTS ON BEHALF
OF REFUGEES.

2. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT HAS MADE AVAILABLE 10 MILLION
BF TO PROVIDE HOUSING, MEDICAL TREATMENT, EDUCATION AND
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH VOLAGS TO 150 INDOCHINESE
REFUGEES FOR A NEW RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM BEGINNING THIS
MONTH. THE FIRST 13 OF THE 150 ARRIVED IN BELGIUM ON
AUGUST 12. REFUGEES UNDER NEW PROGRAM WILL COME FROM
THAILAND, MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE.

3. THIS NEW BELGIAN INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROGRAM IS IN
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ADDITION TO ONGOING BELGIAN EFFORTS TO REUNIFY DIVIDED
FAMILIES. BELGIAN FAMILY REUNIFICATION EFFORTS ARE BEING
CONDUCTED UNDER BROAD GUIDELINES WHICH WILL BE TRANSMITTED
BY AIRGRAM.

4. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT THERE WERE
BETWEEN 2,400 AND 2,700 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES IN BELGIUM

AT THE END OF THE WAR. THIS NUMBER HAS NOW DIMINISHED TO ABOUT 1,300, MOST OF WHOM PLAN TO REMAIN IN BELGIUM AND BRING MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES TO BELGIUM. SOME VIETNAMESE ALREADY HAVE BEEN GRANTED EXIT VISAS FROM VIET-NAM TO REJOIN MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILIES RESIDING IN BELGIUM.

5. IN ADDITION TO INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, BELGIUM HAS ACCEPTED NUMEROUS LATIN AMERICAN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REFUGEES. THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ESTIMATES THAT THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 30,000 REFUGEES NOW IN BELGIUM IN A REFUGEE STATUS. MANY MORE HAVE BEEN GRANTED BELGIAN CITIZENSHIP. 5,000 REFUGEES WERE ACCEPTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN BELGIUM BETWEEN 1973 AND 1976.

6. THE TOTAL FOREIGN COMMUNITY IN BELGIUM IS NOW ESTIMATED AT 914,000 OR APPROXIMATELY 10 PERCENT OF THE ENTIRE POPULATION.

7. COMMENT: NEW BELGIAN PROGRAM FOR REFUGEES AND ONGOING FAMILY REUNIFICATION EFFORTS CITED ABOVE ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS OF BELGIAN ATTENTION TO CONTINUING INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM. IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC SITUATION IN BELGIUM, FOREIGN MINISTRY REFUGEE AFFAIRS OFFICER SAID THAT BELGIUM COULD NOT DO MORE. CHAMBERS
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Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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